

[27 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

2nd November 2000, claims amounting to Rs.560.36 lakh were approved by the Government of India.

- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Claims have already been approved by the Government of India.

Subsidizing Agricultural Products

4582. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that developed countries, particularly the US and European nations, heavily subsidize agriculture;
- (b) if so, whether Government propose to subsidize agricultural products in the country to the maximum, so that India is able to compete in the international market;
- (c) whether, 147 items out of 715 items, deleted from the restricted list, are agricultural items; and
- (d) if so, what care Government would take at the time of import of agricultural items, so that no sanitary and phytosanitary problems are created, in the interest of our farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) In the Indian context, we may not be able to subsidize agricultural products to the maximum.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) With a view to protecting the interest of our farmers from the sanitary and phytosanitary problems on account of the import of agricultural items from other countries, Agriculture Ministry has been stringently enforcing the provisions of various regulations in this regard.